

Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /078 W
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R 160722Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1156

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0079

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ZA, RH

SUBJECT: AFRICAN DOUBTS ABOUT UK RESOLUTION ON RHODESIA

1. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION ZAMBIAN DEPUTY CHIEF
JUSTICE LEO BARON CASTIGATED BRITISH FOREIGN
SECRETARY CALLAGHAN FOR HIS TIMIDITY IN APPROACH-
ING SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEM ON RECENT VISIT TO
REGION. SAID BOTH PM WILSON AND CALLAGHAN WERE
FAR MORE CONCERNED WITH POSSIBLE DISAFFECTION
OF BRITISH ELECTORATE THAN WITH CALLING CONSTI-
TUTIONAL CONFERENCE TO SETTLE RHODESIAN PRO-
BLEM. CONTENTED BRITISH PROBABLY WOULD ONLY
DISCHARGE THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES IF FULLY CON-
FIDENT OF SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME AND IF THERE CLEAR
SUPPORT FROM BRITISH PUBLIC. (BARON WAS FORCED
TO LEAVE SOUTHERN RHODESIA YEARS AGO IN CON-
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NECTION WITH HIS ACTIVITY AS LEGAL COUNSELOR FOR

ZAPU'S JOSHUA NKOMA.)

2. I ASKED BARON IF HE WASN'T BEING UNDULY
HARD ON CALLAGHAN WHO GAVE EVERY IMPRESSION OF
SINCERITY AND GOOD FAITH.

3. PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR MARK CHONA THEN INTER-
VENED TO SAY BARON WAS "HALF RIGHT." ASKED
TO EXPLAIN, CHONA SAID BARON HAD NOT BEEN STRONG
ENOUGH IN CRITICIZING CALLAGHAN FOR HIS LACK OF
BOLDNESS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA. WHY ARE BRITISH SO
AFRIAD TO TAKE RISKS, ASKED CHONA. PREVIOUS
FAILURES AT SETTLING THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM (HMS
FEARLESS AND TIGER) AND ABOVE ALL CYPRUS, CHONA
SAID ARE INADEQUATE AS EXCUSES. CHONA SAID HE
PERSONALLY AS WELL AS ZAMBIA HAD "RISKED EVERY-
THING," INCLUDING AFRICAN AND WORLD CRITICISM
IN MEETING IAN SMITH. CHONA SAID HE NOT ONLY
TOLD SMITH THIS TO HIS FACE BUT ADDED IT WAS
NO PERSONAL PLEASURE TO BE MEETING HIM.

4. UK HICOM MILES LATER TOLD ME IT WAS REGRET-
TABLE CALLAGHAN WAS SO LITTLE APPRECIATED FOR
HIS SERIOUS EFFORT TO SORT OUT RHODESIAN PROBLEM,
ESPECIALLY AS FIRM UK DECISION TAKEN TO
CONVENE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE IN FEBRUARY,
ALTHOUGH SITE NOT YET DECIDED.
WILKOWSKI

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